

## Iran rebels say squads hunting Rushdie

LONDON (R) — An Iranian dissident group said Tuesday it had proof that the Tehran government had sent hit-squads to kill author Salman Rushdie, and was behind attacks on his Iranian and Japanese translators. The British-based Mujahedeen-e-Khaq of Iran said the terms had been given to at least nine countries to hunt down dissidents and people associated with Mr. Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," viewed by Iran as blasphemous. A hit-squad arrived in Britain four months ago to carry out the death sentence on Mr. Rushdie imposed by the late Iranian leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the London spokesman for the Mujahedeen, Farzin Hashemi, told a news conference. Other teams had been sent to Italy, Japan, France, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Germany and Algeria. Iran has denied Mujahedeen charges that it has ordered death squads into action against Mr. Rushdie and his colleagues. The Mujahedeen, which is bitterly opposed to the Iranian government, produced a tape of a telephone conversation about the hit-squads between a man they said was an aide to President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and another unidentified man.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

## Soviet Union seeks full IMF membership

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has applied to become a full member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), an organization it once derided as a tool of the capitalist West, international monetary sources said Tuesday. The application is the latest step by Moscow to try to end more than 40 years of self-imposed economic isolation and join the international financial fold. Monetary sources said the United States is unlikely to welcome the news that the Soviet Union has applied for full membership in the IMF. Washington has argued that the membership negotiations could take two years or more and thus delay much-needed economic reforms in the Soviet Union. In contrast, the special associate status proposed by the United States could be put in place quickly — within 30 days or less — and would enable Moscow to draw on the IMF's expertise immediately in reforming its economy. U.S. officials have said, Washington's allies in the Group of Seven — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan — endorsed the U.S. proposal at last week's economic summit in London.

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### Abdul Meguid arrives today

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid arrives in Amman Wednesday on a two-day visit to Jordan as part of a tour of several Arab countries. Dr. Abdul Meguid will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the region and efforts aimed at resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem through peaceful means. The secretary general will also discuss in Amman the role of the league in improving Arab relations and healing rifts among Arab states following the Gulf crisis.

### Israeli businessmen reject Arab boycott linkage

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli business leaders Tuesday rejected any link between a freeze on Jewish settlement of the occupied territories and a ban by the Arab economic boycott which has cost the Jewish state \$80 billion. Arab states led by Egypt this week backed proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to link the two issues. "The boycott existed 20 years before there were settlements. The Western world is wrong in creating a linkage," Dan Gillerman, president of the Israel Chamber of Commerce, told a news conference. "Mr. Gillerman said the boycott had over its 43 years cost Israel 10 per cent of both exports and foreign investment, a total of \$80 billion. Israeli officials have already rejected the proposal, saying the Arab boycott is 'illegal and has no connection with settlements. Harry Wall, director of the Anti-Defamation League, urged other countries to follow the lead of the United States where legislation bars companies from honouring the boycott. "Western Europe, Israel's largest trading partner, has shown a highly equivocal attitude towards the boycott," Mr. Wall said. Israel has settled some 100,000 Jews in Arab lands, in contravention of the Geneva conventions.

### King Hassan to visit U.S. in September

WASHINGTON (R) — King Hassan II of Morocco has accepted an invitation from President George Bush to visit Washington on Sept. 26, the U.S. administration announced Monday. "The visit reflects the friendly state of long-standing relationship between Morocco and the United States that goes back to the earliest days of American independence," U.S. administration spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a statement. "Talks between the two leaders are expected to centre on regional and international issues as well as on U.S.-Moroccan ties," Mr. Fitzwater said.

### Kuwait plans army of conscripts

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is considering conscription to rebuild its army, which was all but wiped out by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah said in remarks published Tuesday. He told Al Watan newspaper in an interview that the military was 90 per cent destroyed during the invasion. "The idea of building an army based on conscription is being studied," Sheikh Ali said. He gave no further details. The Kuwaiti army, with a pre-invasion strength of 16,000 men, failed to stand up to the Iraqis, who seized the emirate in an overnight attack. The army faces a serious shortage of manpower following a decision by the government to lay off the bedouin or stateless Arabs, who formed the backbone of the armed forces.

### One killed by rebel rockets in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan Mujahideen guerrillas fired two rockets at Kabul, killing one person and injuring five, Afghanistan's Balkh news agency reported Tuesday. The two ground-to-ground rockets hit residential areas in the capital. Monday, a car bomb caused extensive damage, the agency said.

## Baker awaiting quick Israeli reply to proposal

### Shamir expects talks to begin in 'a month or two'

KUALA LUMPUR (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, sounding "upbeat and optimistic," said Tuesday he was waiting for a quick reply from Israel on whether it would take part in Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Baker told foreign ministers from a dozen nations that during his Middle East tour, he had "received an expression that it (Israel) would give its response shortly," officials present during Mr. Baker's remarks said.

Mr. Baker added that he "did not receive a rejection from Israel," said the officials, who described his remarks as upbeat.

Mr. Baker was briefing foreign ministers at talks between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its seven major trade partners — the United States, Japan, the European Community, South Korea, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The ASEAN members are Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei.

The officials said Mr. Baker's report was hailed by those present.

They quoted Mr. Baker as saying that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told him Israel would attend the talks provided the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was not present.

Israel said Palestinians acceptable to it from the Israeli-occupied territories could attend the peace talks. Mr. Baker was quoted as saying. He added that Israel also wanted the Palestinians to agree to the existence of an Israeli state.

The officials said Mr. Baker told them that there first would be talks between Israel and the Arabs. The United States and the Soviet Union have reached agreement on co-sponsoring those talks and would attend at the foreign ministers level, they added.

These would be followed by talks between Israel and the Palestinians acceptable to Israel, but excluding the PLO, they said.

Then a larger peace conference would be held among all these parties, together with observers from the European Community and the United Nations, the officials quoted Mr. Baker as saying.

He said several weeks ago he thought he had an agreed basis for Palestinian representation to the talks through the mechanism of a joint delegation with Jordan.

He wants to avoid delaying tactics by Mr. Shamir that could unravel the progress already achieved on the Arab side.

Mr. Baker said Israel needed to decide if it embraced the broad concept proposed by the United States. On Monday, he said the peace process was constructed on the principle

"And it is contemplated that we would receive a response of some

(Continued on page 5)

## Prices soar under sanctions and war fears in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqis are "suffering unprecedented distress and pain" because of a U.N. embargo on trade and are demanding the end of the economic blockade, Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer said Tuesday.

His comments were in response to U.S. President George Bush's statements over the weekend about Iraq, and apparently were made before Mr. Bush said Tuesday that he was considering easing the U.N. embargo.

Hoarding caused by fear of a fresh allied air attack on Iraq and shortages caused by U.S. economic sanctions have driven food prices sky high in Baghdad.

Also, as people buy up the country's dwindling supply of American dollars in hopes of going abroad, the price of an Iraqi dinar on the black market has risen in the past few weeks from five of six dinars to 10 or more.

Mr. Khudayer made no direct reference to the threat by the United States and some of its



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (centre) and Palestine Ambassador to Tunisia Hakam Balawi (Petra photo).

## U.S. considering easing of sanctions against Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush, pledging that the United States will not allow innocent women or children in Iraq to suffer, said Tuesday he was considering whether to ease the United Nations embargo against Iraq.

Mr. Shamir also said he was hopeful that "in a month or two, we will sit together with our neighbours' representatives and we will talk."

He was speaking in his office to a delegation of prosecutors from the United States. His remarks were issued by his office, partially obscured quotations and partly in paraphrase.

Until recently, Israeli leaders have expressed great scepticism about the motives of Syria.

After being briefed by Mr. Baker on Syria's position Monday, Mr. Shamir appeared cautiously optimistic. His comparison between Mr. Sadat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to be a more emphatic endorsement of Mr. Baker's mission.

"As things look now, I think we are approaching the beginning of negotiations," Mr. Shamir said. He said some problems remained, specifically which Palestinians will attend negotiations, but "we hope these problems can be solved."

The Palestinians representation problem sabotaged Mr. Baker's efforts to promote peace talks last year after Mr. Shamir refused to accept Palestinians from occupied Arab Jerusalem as a negotiation partner.

Mr. Baker's comments made it clear he was not prepared to engage in more lengthy talks to clear up this question.

He said several weeks ago he thought he had an agreed basis for Palestinian representation to the talks through the mechanism of a joint delegation with Jordan.

He wants to avoid delaying tactics by Mr. Shamir that could unravel the progress already achieved on the Arab side.

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(Continued on page 5)

But the United States is not going to see the suffering of innocent women or children there, and there's all kinds of mechanisms to take care of it — its own resources inside the country, possible release of resources outside the country and the matter that's being discussed at the United Nations embargo against Baghdad.

"We have not resolved yet exactly what we're going to do at the United Nations," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush said he had talked earlier Tuesday with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the United Nations official in charge of humanitarian efforts for Iraq.

Songs of willingness to provide leeway for humanitarian relief came along with the approach of Thursday's deadline for a full inventory of Iraq's nuclear capabilities.

The United States has accused Baghdad of failing to comply with ceasefire terms requiring full disclosure and elimination of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and the ability to produce them. The deadline for compliance on that issue is July 25, although it remained to be seen whether and when the Gulf war military allies would back it up with force.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Tuesday in Turkey that Britain may support a U.N. proposal to allow Iraq to sell some oil to pay for food, but only if there are guarantees that the Iraqi army will not get the proceeds.

One U.S. official said easing of the sanctions was being considered because of the needs of the Iraqi people.

Under the various options being discussed, Baghdad would be allowed to sell some of its oil if there was certainty the money would be used for such needs as food and medicine.

The United States repeatedly said Iraq had not revealed everything about its nuclear programme.

"So there is much to be done.

It also charged that Iraq was violating a United Nations Security Council resolution by not allowing U.N. relief workers back into marshes in southern Iraq where Iraqi Shiites were said to be seeking refuge.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher told a news briefing: "They haven't come clean yet."

Iraq provided more information but "we are still very sceptical about their disclosures and believe they have more to tell us," he said.

Asked about the possibility of a renewed use of force against Iraq, Mr. Boucher said: "I wouldn't hazard any guesses or speculations on decisions like that."

U.N. teams have been inspecting Iraqi nuclear facilities and in August other teams will examine Baghdad's biological, chemical and ballistic missile capabilities.

As to activity in the south, Mr. Boucher said "to our knowledge, the U.N. relief workers have not been allowed back... this is simply one more example of Iraq's complete disregard for (its) obligations under the ceasefire agreement and the memorandum of understanding which the government signed."

He added: "We consider this action, impeding the work of U.N. relief workers who are attempting to alleviate the suffering of Iraqi civilians, to be violations of resolution 688." The resolution insists Iraq allow international humanitarian organizations access to the civilian population.

In his report, issued in Geneva July 15, Prince Sadruddin said it was imperative that Iraq's essential civilian needs be met urgently and that "humanitarian and political interests converge in the aversion of catastrophe."

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## PFLP, Hamas assail Syria for accepting U.S. proposal

NICOSIA (R) — Palestinian leftists and Muslim fundamentalists have unusually joined together to condemn Syria for accepting proposals by U.S. President George Bush for a Middle East peace conference.

He also rejected Mr. Bush's allegations "that the Iraqi government is withholding food from the people of Iraq," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The Iraqi people were "strongly and clearly demanding that the unjust blockade imposed on them be lifted and that interference in their internal affairs be stopped," Mr. Khudayer said. "The Iraqi people are suffering unprecedented distress and pain."

"World public opinion and humanitarian and international institutions, as well as U.N. secretary-general's envoys, have been acquainted with the food distribution system announced in newspapers and other local mass media," he said. "The food is distributed equally and in accordance with a fair programme, despite the circumstances of the inhuman year-long blockade."

It made no direct mention of Syria, which maintains 40,000

troops in Lebanon.

Nor did Iranian media, which hinted at possible future rows between Iran and Damascus, its long-standing Arab ally.

Tehran Radio on Tuesday asked: "Can't it be predicted that a peace conference and its consequences would widen the gap between some participating Arab governments and the region's people?"

Iranian officials would not be drawn on the Syrian change of heart but the radical newspaper Jomhuri Eslami commented:

"Arab reactionaries have knelt down before the United States but the U.S. is pressuring them to do the same before Israel as a sign of their goodwill."

The joint PFLP-Hamas statement said U.S. proposals offered limited self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, while allowing Israel to control the territory.

"We call on the Palestinian masses to declare their categorical rejection of this American-Zionist conspiracy which aims at subjugating us and liquidating our just cause," it said.

However, Central Committee member Vladimir Svetozarov told the Associated Press Tuesday the chances of some form of the programme being approved at the plenum were "exceptionally high."

Mr. Svetozarov said the text published by the newspaper was

## King and PLO team discuss coordination

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein met a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation Tuesday for talks on the latest U.S. plan for Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Jordan News Agency, Petra reported.

The team, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, briefed the King on the outcome of his talks in Cairo with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa.

The delegation included Hakam Balawi, member of the central committee of the PLO's main stream faction, Fatah. Mr. Balawi is also Palestine's ambassador to Tunisia.

The meeting, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan discussed the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Jordan and other countries in the region and peace efforts aimed at resolving the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Baker's delegation is currently visiting Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders on coordination in peace efforts. That delegation is led by PLO Executive Committee member and Political Department head Farouq Kaddoumi.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa met with the delegation Monday. Their talks also believed to have covered relations between the PLO and Syria.

PLO officials have said that the PLO is willing to drop its demand for a direct role in peace talks with Israel as long as it is understood that it has a say in choosing the delegates from the occupied territories. No official statement has been issued by the PLO headquarters in Tunisia.

## Lebanese army fires at Israeli warplanes

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese army gunners fired anti-aircraft rounds at low-flying Israeli warplanes which buzzed over the southeastern flank of Sidon, operated their batteries.

Israeli warplanes regularly fly reconnaissance missions over Lebanon and attack targets at will. In recent years, not once were they opposed by the Lebanese regulars.

The army was withdrawn to its barracks when the civil war broke out in 1975. It later split along sectarian lines with some units joining militia groups fighting each other.

In 1982, when the Israelis invaded Lebanon the army had no orders to confront the air, land and sea forces attacking the country.

Under a peace accord signed in October 1989, President Elias Hrawi's government restructured the 42,000-strong army.

Army units have since been gradually disbanding local and foreign groups that fought the civil war and reasserting government sovereignty.

The army began deploying 11,000 troops in South Lebanon

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## Masri, unions discuss employment

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri met Tuesday with a delegation representing the Jordanian labour unions.

The meeting, which was held in the presence of the Minister of Labour and the Prime Minister Affairs' Abdul Karim Daqqaq, discussed the issue of the unions' work in Jordan in light of the government's policy statement presented to the Lower House of Parliament recently, particularly the new labour law that conforms with the democratisation process in Jordan.

Mr. Masri was briefed by members of the delegation on problems facing labour unions and solutions to these problems.

The prime minister stressed what was mentioned on the policy statement regarding labour unions and said he considered this meeting as a starting point for serious work.

He emphasised the important role the labour unions could play in replacing foreign labourers in Jordan with Jordanian citizens through breaking up the psychological barrier which stands between them and filling some jobs occupied by foreigners.

Mr. Masri reviewed with the delegation the current situation in the Middle East and the latest developments on the Palestinian issue and the U.S. efforts to solve it.

He affirmed Jordan's principled stand on the Middle East problem, which is based on solving it on the basis of international legitimacy and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

On Monday, Mr. Masri met with the presidents of the Jordanian Professional Associations and discussed with them the role of their associations in serving Jordanian society.

Mr. Masri also reviewed the government's policy statement presented to the Lower House of Parliament recently and the implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives.



ROYAL SHOW: The Royal Falcons will perform in honour of King Hussein

## Gliding club to mark anniversary of King's accession to the throne

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Jordanian Gliding Club (RJGC) will this year mark the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne with a special festival by plane gliders, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, according to an announcement here Tuesday by the club's Director Ziyad Rahahleb.

Lt. Col. Rahahleb told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the festival which will be held in the first half of the coming month, will include air and ground shows displaying various types of military and civilian planes.

The festival will be organised for three days at Amman Civil Airport.

According to Lt. Col.

Rahahleb, the RJGC was established in 1986 upon King Hussein's directives and is affiliated to the Royal Air Academy. The present membership, according to Lt. Col. Rahahleb, is 150.

The club, he said, is to spread knowledge about aviation among the various groups of Jordanian citizens and encourage them to learn to fly planes through the club.

Those undergoing training normally pay nominal fees for their courses and their number is on the increase, he added.

One of the club's instructors, Riyad Al Tal, said that 200 Jordanians have already been trained in plane gliding. The total number of people flying in the club's craft to have a view of Amman has now reached 5,000.

The club is willing to expand its operations and offer as many opportunities as possible for all people, Mr. Tal said.

He said that the instructors at the club are all Jordanian pilots with high qualifications who took part in gliding competitions held in Britain and Germany.

The RJGC, according to Mr. Tal, is the second club of its kind in the entire Middle East. Its operations and activities, he said, have received encouragement and support from His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, who chairs the Club's Board of Directors.

## Symposium blames Arab regimes siding with West as main culprits of Gulf war

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a two-day-symposium on the Gulf crisis' causes and results Tuesday discussed a working paper dealing with the consequences of the crisis on the Palestine problem.

The Gulf war had its shocking and detrimental effect on the spirit of the Arab and Islamic nations, which felt totally humiliated and in total despair, said the paper presented by Dr. Mohammad Oweida from the University of Jordan.

The Gulf war presented the true nature of the struggle between the Western colonial ideology and culture versus that of the Arab and Islamic nation. It also displayed the Western powers' determination to obliterate Arab military strength and dissipate the nation's wealth to keep the Arabs and the Muslims in total disarray so that the United States can be the sole superpower, according to the paper.

The paper also pointed out that the consequences of the war would encourage the Israelis to become more arrogant, taking a more adamant position with regard to peace, particularly in the wake of the end of the Palestinian military presence in Lebanon and Palestinian political strength in the Gulf region.

The paper said the Israelis, who continue to occupy Arab lands with encouragement from the Western nations, are bound to take fresh measures to stifle the Palestinian uprising and accelerate the process of settling Jews in occupied Palestine.

But apart from this, the Gulf war had its positive effect in that the war exposed to the Arab and Muslim masses those regimes, political parties and groups that used to raise empty slogans, providing them traits to the Arab causes, Mr. Oweida noted in his paper.

Furthermore, the Gulf war resulted in a stronger Israeli stand and a weaker Western position, with regard to Israeli intransigence and showed beyond a doubt the double standard the Western nations adopt with regard to various world issues.

The delegates gathered at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, reviewed another paper by Dr. Ahmad Alani, from Egypt, who discussed the imbalances created in the Middle East as a result of the Gulf war.

## U.N. advisor commends Jordan on environmental protection efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Unlike most of the Third World countries, Jordan is concerned about protecting the environment and it is to be praised for establishing a special government department to take charge of this matter, according to an advisor to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNDP) now touring Arab countries.

The advisor, Sirrel Khitem Khalifa — who has been touring part of Jordan and meeting with officials to discuss questions related to the protection of the environment, said that many of the Third World's countries are plagued by a heavy population density and lack sufficient means to carry out proper national environmental policies.

Mr. Khalifa told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that his

current visit to Jordan and the other Arab states was aimed at examining national efforts to promote environmental education in schools and to offer UNEP assistance in protecting the environment.

Jordan has already taken steps towards protecting its environment and Jordanians are showing noticeable concern over pollution, said Mr. Khalifa.

Mr. Khalifa, who earlier met with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi and Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat, has been visiting a number of regions where environmental protection projects are being implemented.

He discussed with Mr. Zoubi Jordan's national environment strategy, which will be completed next month.

Referring to the situation in the Gulf and the effects of the war on the environment, Mr. Khalifa said to date there are no surveys and studies proving that the Gulf war had a negative impact on the region's environment as a whole.

Mr. Khalifa is currently on a tour that would take him to Syria, Yemen and Bahrain on similar missions.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to congratulate him on the 39th anniversary of the June 23 Revolution. King Hussein wished Mr. Mubarak continued good health and happiness and the Egyptian people further progress and prosperity.

#### King meets Armed Forces officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Tuesday visited the General Command of the Armed Forces where he was received by Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants, the commander of the Royal Air Force and the inspector general. King Hussein held a meeting with Gen. Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

#### King awards medal to ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday conferred Al Iskial Medal of the First Order on the outgoing Bahraini ambassador to Jordan, Ibrahim Ali Ibrahim, in recognition of his efforts in improving Jordanian-Bahraini relations. Mr. Ibrahim was presented with the medal by Foreign Minister Abdulla Ensour at a special ceremony held in his honour at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.

#### Deputy requests review of fees

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Deputy Saad Haddadin of the Madaba constituency has asked the House to review the departure fees paid at Jordanian airports by travellers abroad and to make the fees proportional to the prices of the tickets and the destinations. In a memorandum sent to the House Speaker, Deputy Haddadin also called for

raising the standards of teachers in private sector schools as their counterparts in the government schools and to give them the right to have the Royal 'makrumat' (university scholarships) to the teachers' sons and daughters.

#### Lower House to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabi and in the presence of Prime Minister Taher Masri and the cabinet members. The house is scheduled to discuss the legal committee's resolutions on an amendment to the Martyrs Fund Law for the year 1990 and the Penal Codes Law for 1990. The committee met Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Hussein Mijali and approved the National Economy Protection Law after adding to it an article pertaining to ending the regulations of martial law, which was later rejected by the committee.

#### Chamber to open new office

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry decided to open an office at Amman Industrial Estate in Sabab, south of Amman. The decision aims at facilitating official procedures at the industrial estate and in areas surrounding it. The number of establishments at the industrial estate is estimated at more than 200.

#### U.N. employees to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian expatriate, Mohammad Amin Abdul Rabb, arrived in Amman from Geneva Tuesday on a working visit to the Kingdom. During his stay in Amman, Dr. Abdul Rabb will prepare a programme for a tourist visit to Jordan by a delegation comprising employees of the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva. The delegation will visit several tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan.

## PNC speaker announces he will not seek reelection

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Sheikh Hamid Al Sayeh, announced Tuesday that he does not wish to run for the post again in the coming PNC elections, expected to be held in September.

Sheikh Sayeh told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that whether serving in a prominent post or in his capacity as an ordinary citizen he would be serving the Palestinian cause. New Palestinian blood will enter the PNC in the coming elections and the new elements will represent all Palestinian groups and sectors, Sheikh Sayeh said.

He stressed that some of the Palestinian factions and popular groups and unions have already started naming their candidates

for the coming PNC membership elections.

But, he said, the new PNC would not include more than 452 members who represent the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied Arab territories.

A special committee preparing for the PNC's coming meeting is due to meet in Tunis in the coming week to pave the way for elections, which are going to be held in the Tunisian capital. The committee, he said, groups representatives of various Palestinian political factions.

Sheikh Sayeh, who resides in Amman, said that the general conditions prevailing in the Palestinian lands and the pressures being exercised on the Palestinian people require the speeding up of the election process. He said that the coming PNC will have to deal with the question of crystallising the



Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh  
Palestinian people's national orientation since it serves as the Palestinian Parliament in exile.

## Quality of salt produced in Jordan being questioned as foreign firm considers entering local market

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A great deal of controversy surrounds the question of whether table salt produced in Jordan meets the highest possible standards and if alternative methods of refining salt will improve its quality.

Inform sources who preferred anonymity said that many complaints about the salt produced there have been addressed to them. Many complainants claim that the salt is reddish in tint and not the high quality white colour it should be. But the manager of the Al Azrak refinery, Farhat Al Akraa, said that when the Gulf crisis began the time for a bid did not seem appropriate.

"Now the time seemed suitable," he said, adding that salt taken from ground deposits from Al Azrak was found to be even better than Dead Sea salt. And since salt was plentiful in Al Azrak, it was decided that there was no need for a salt refinery near the Dead Sea area. It was also decided that improving the salt refining process in Al Azrak would produce the best possible table salt.

Al Azrak salt refinery in east Amman is the only such refinery in Jordan and it produces 120 tonnes of refined salt daily. According to Mr. Al Akraa, the average consumption of Jordan is 24 tonnes each day.

Only 12 tonnes of Jordan's salt needs are provided by Al Azrak refinery. The rest is provided by the Arab Potash Company (APC). This salt is also of very high quality and it is a by-product to potash.

The APC markets some of the

salt it produces through Al Azrak refinery as part of a written agreement between the two parties specifying that APC could sell the table salt it produces at competitive market prices to local areas.

Inform sources who preferred anonymity said that this agreement has worked well so far as the APC does not pose a threat as a competitor to the Azrak salt refinery. But this may change.

According to informed sources at the APC, the issue is being reevaluated because of possible new competition.

"There is a Swiss company undergoing a feasibility study on salt production in Jordan. This company, Krebs, is studying the possibility of making high quality industrial salt as well as a possible project to make the quality table salt," a source said. "If the table salt project is adopted, the Azrak salt refinery may have a competitor. The negative attitude in this case is being raised by the workers at the Azrak refinery to whom this refinery is the sole source of income."

"So far, no definite plans have been made but we are already receiving (complaints) about the idea. Whether the table salt project will be taken on remains to be seen," the source said.

"Krebs' study will be completed in four months. That is when we will know," the source added.

## JD 8m allocated for improvement of medical services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has allocated JD 8 million to carry out the first phase of a plan for the improvement and expansion of health and medical services in the Kingdom, according to Health Minister Mamoud Al Abbadi.

The minister was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday as saying that the plan was in line

with the new government's policies as pledged before Parliament during the vote of confidence session.

According to the plan, the government plans to set up two new hospitals, one in Yajour between Amman and Zarqa with 100 beds at a total estimated cost of JD 800,000 to boost health services in view of the growing demand.

He said that the first phase of the work is due to start soon.

## COMPUTER GRAPHICS DEMONSTRATION

The French Embassy in Amman & Muhanna Engineering House (MEHCO) have the pleasure to announce the demonstration for Computer graphics provided by Getris Images, a leading French Company in this field. The demonstration will be held at :

Amra Hotel

Nabatean Suite between 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SATURDAY 27TH JULY 1991

Such systems are of great interest for planning architecture, advertising, graphic designers and broadcasting corporations.

The GETRIS-IMAGES system uses direct personnel computer interfaces to drive graphic tablets and video monitors to provide the user with the necessary creative freedom.

They give to all participants the opportunity to produce logos and titles for their companies.

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## Jordan Times

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جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية عن مؤسسة الأردن للطباعة والتوزيع

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## Meeting the needs of Iraq

U.S. President George Bush's statement that Washington is considering easing the international sanctions against Iraq is welcome news coupled with reports that there is consensus among the members of the United Nations Security Council that the Iraqi people stand in urgent need of food and medicine.

It may be a useless exercise to remind the Bush Administration and its anti-Iraq allies in Europe and elsewhere that easing of the sanctions to allow Iraq to raise enough funds to pay for its food and medicine needs should have come much earlier. But judging from the shape of things in the Security Council and indications that a firm decision in favour of Iraq could be as far away as three weeks from now, it is imperative to send the world powers the message that no more foot-dragging could be allowed in ensuring that the Iraqi people meet their urgent needs.

Even today, it could be too late for hundreds of thousands of women and children in Iraq to save themselves from the damages caused by months of malnutrition and shortage of medicine. The situation has already left deep scars in the Iraqi society, and it will take years before any semblance of normality is restored.

It may not mean much to Washington or its allies, but for us in the Arab World it is clear that the innovative spirit and the instinct for survival among the Iraqi people have held the society together for so long under the hard-hitting effects of the sanctions coupled with the devastation that the war has left behind.

We hope that there is enough sincerity and goodwill among the world powers grouped in the Security Council to understand the pressing need to adopt immediate action to ensure that the deterioration of the situation in Iraq is brought to a halt. It is not enough to express words of understanding; what the Iraqi people need is action — urgent action.



## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the economic boycott imposed on Israel and said that Israel's occupation is illegal and that Arabs have the right to take whatever measures necessary to force the aggressors to evacuate occupied lands. The paper said that it is an Arab duty to hold on to the boycott regulations as long as the occupation exists and as long as the Israelis continue to build settlements on Arab-owned land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Judging from the speed in building the Jewish settlements, one can only conclude that the Zionists have no intention of giving up occupied Arab land and are not concerned with the implementation of the international legitimacy and the U.N. Security Council resolutions, the paper noted. Therefore, the paper said, it is only natural for the Arabs to hold on to the regulations of the economic boycott of Israel and it is only just to demand that the Zionists halt the construction of settlements and the evacuation of all occupied Arab territories. These are the minimum demands acceptable to the Arabs who want to see Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 implemented in full, otherwise there can be no chance for a just peace in the region, the paper continued. Stopping the building of settlements, withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories and respect for the international legitimacy are all rightful demands by the Arabs who have accepted the idea of swapping land for peace, the paper said. The paper said that it is only within this concept that justice can be achieved and peace can be secured.

Despite the atmosphere of optimism created by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker following his talks with the Israeli leaders, it is clear that his mission in Israel was stemmed and he did not secure the Israeli government's acceptance of the U.S. administration's initiative. Al Dustour daily said Tuesday. The paper said that Israel seems to be holding on to its pre-conditions before any peace conference can be convened and it is clear that the United States is allowing the Israelis to have all the time they need before taking a final decision. But, the paper pointed out, that the U.S. administration is allowing that to happen while realising that the Sbari government is only stalling and is not willing to enter the peace negotiations to reach a settlement. The United States, which was pressuring the Arabs to give their replies to its peace initiative, is dealing differently with the Israelis who refuse the American plan and continue to reject the bid for peace, the paper added. In view of the situation, we find ourselves face to face with continued Israeli intransigence and continued occupation and continued building of settlements on Arab land, with the United States condoning such policies and encouraging the Israelis to hold on to the occupied Arab territories, the paper noted. It said that the United States is not benefiting from this golden opportunity to overcome the last stumbling block and achieve peace and security in the region.

## Economic Forum

# Unemployment again and again

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

NOT only inflation is here to stay, but so is unemployment. This is unfortunately a fact of economic life, that has to be reckoned with if any realistic solutions are to be worked out in order to alleviate these economic woes and make life more tolerable with them.

Annual price increases of less than five per cent are difficult to be attained on a sustainable basis. That is what we mean by saying that inflation is here to stay. Even if that very ambitious goal is attained, we still will have to live with the costs of living, that have become pretty high both on their own and compared with income levels.

Linguistically speaking, full employment is a term which can be entirely deceiving. Finding a job for every job-seeker is virtually not possible, so that the state of full employment refers to a situation where unemployment rate is not more than three per cent, and even not more than five per cent according to certain modern schools of thought. This is what is called the natural rate of unemployment, meaning that at any level of economic activity, there are bound to be persons who do not find jobs for a variety of reasons.

In its ministerial statement, the government made a promise to tackle the problem of unemployment in words which can be easily

misunderstood by the man in the street as to mean that this problem will not be with us in the short or medium terms. The deputies also raised this issue in a context which suggested that they believed the government could really resolve it if only it was serious about that. Both notions are not realistic and misleading. The unemployment problem will not be resolved before our economic policy and development strategy undergo profound change.

The textbook conventional wisdom has it that unemployment is solved through labour-intensive projects. This is right, provided it is correctly interpreted as to duly allow for the particular circumstances of the concerned country. Now, what does this mean to Jordan?

With a very shallow industrial base and potential, obtaining mainly from a narrow domestic market and poor energy sources, any employment "revolution" must start from the agricultural sector. Servies constitute another point of departure.

The agricultural diagnosis is very simple. There are plenty of jobs in agriculture which are engaged by imported labour. These jobs suffice to absorb all unemployed Jordanians who shy away from them because our agricultural sector is not modern enough. The working conditions are commonly so harsh and tough to the

extent that Jordanians flock from them away to the "mercy" of unemployment. The modernisation of Jordanian agriculture is what we need. This does not include only technicalities (production methods, varieties, agricultural extension, credit, marketing) but also providing the infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.) that makes life in our farms, villages and countryside more pleasant. Easy, or easier said? May be. But unemployment also is not an "easy" national problem and it is really worth the effort, money and sacrifice.

The other field of action is services sectors which are labour-intensive by nature. Tourism is the outstanding example. Given the foreign exchange-saving potential of tourism and our present situation of foreign-exchange stringency, the tourism sector may be now the best candidate to be given priority for the sake of tackling the unemployment problem in the short and medium term. Beyond that, other services sectors can make a valuable contribution.

In our estimation, emphasising agriculture and tourism and giving them due development priority can solve our joblessness headache over a period of not less than a decade. But this needs a dramatic shift in our official economic thinking. The alternative is a continuous national nightmare.

## Israel faces ultimate question — land or peace

By Alan Elsner  
Reuter

KUALA LUMPUR — In its 43 years of existence, Israel has always professed to yearn for one thing above all others — peace talks with its Arab neighbours.

Now Secretary of State James Baker is putting that claim to the ultimate test.

"I think that this is a moment of historic opportunity," Mr. Baker told a news conference in Jerusalem before flying to Malaysia for a meeting with Asian foreign ministers.

"For 43 years, Israel has sought direct negotiations with its neighbours and it has been right to do so," he said.

"And now there is a real opportunity to get to those face-to-face negotiations. Israel now has Arab partners willing to engage in direct negotiations."

By lining up all Israel's important allies behind his proposal for an Arab-Israeli peace conference to be followed immediately by bilateral negotiations, Mr. Baker has challenged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to prove that peace is indeed his top priority.

Mr. Shamir now faces a difficult choice. Whichever way he turns carries grave political risks.

Saying "yes" to Mr. Baker could ignite a political storm in Israel where many of Mr. Shamir's right-wing supporters fear that negotiations with Arabs would inevitably lead to an Israeli withdrawal from territories captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Shamir himself has devoted much of his life and all his

political career to the idea of a "greater Israel." He believes the occupied West Bank should remain in Israeli hands for security reasons and many of his followers believe it was bequeathed to Jews by God.

But saying "no" to Mr. Baker may carry even more serious consequences.

It would expose Israel's stated desire for peace as no more than an empty slogan it would alienate support for Israel in world public opinion and it would place Israel's relationship with the United States, its chief banker and ally, in grave jeopardy.

It might also mobilise Israel's silent majority which, according to opinion polls, has always favoured peace talks with Arabs if there were any Arabs ready to talk.

One advantage of Mr. Baker's latest mission was that with Arab agreement to attend talks in his pocket, he was able for the first time to engage Israeli public opinion. In his Jerusalem news conference, he was clearly appealing to ordinary Israelis above the heads of their leaders.

In these circumstances, U.S. officials believe Mr. Shamir will eventually say "yes" though the answer may be a qualified one. But these officials believe an unprecedented Middle East peace conference will indeed convene, probably some time in autumn.

"What Mr. Shamir heard Sunday night from Mr. Baker... has made it very difficult for him to reject the American proposal and keep intact American goodwill, so vital for Israel, for the new immigrants and for the ruling Likud Party," wrote Akiva

Eldar, diplomatic correspondent of Israel's liberal Haaretz newspaper.

"For the first time, Shamir appeared to realise that he could no longer rely on Arab rejectionism and that he had to make a move."

Mr. Baker succeeded in persuading Arab states like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and most of all Israel's arch-enemy Syria to back his proposal for many reasons, not least his persistence and astuteness in

crafting a process that fit in with Israel's long-stated demands.

He said the U.S. effort had been designed to do three things: produce direct negotiations, construct a process acceptable to Israel and to foster a positive climate for negotiations.

"In our view we have done all three," he said.

But there were also deeper geopolitical realities. The emergence of the United States as the world's only superpower and the

decline in Soviet power helped persuade Syria to join a process that promised a new relationship with Washington.

The U.S. victory in the Gulf war removed Iraq as a radical Arab voice with real influence that could have focused and channelled rejectionist opinion in the Arab World.

It also created a debt of gratitude to Washington for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the other oil-rich Gulf states while almost totally discrediting the Palestine

Liberation Organisation.

With the PLO out of the way, Israel no longer had an excuse to avoid negotiations with local Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories.

The conference itself, should it take place, will inaugurate negotiations that are bound to be long and difficult.

But Mr. Baker now believes he has real momentum. Once the parties are around the table, he believes, nothing in the Middle East will ever be the same again.



## Question Glaspie's superiors

By Leslie H. Gelb

NEW YORK — The real blunder in the fateful weeks before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was not Ambassador April Glaspie but President George Bush, and/or top aides acting in his name. The senators who are about to investigate the matter should look beyond the weak messenger to the senders and their message.

Here is what is now evident based on the previously secret telegrams that flashed between Washington and Baghdad one year ago.

First, as Mr. Saddam Hussein's threats against Kuwait mounted, the State Department instructed Ms. Glaspie to give the Iraqis a conciliatory message punctuated with a few indirect but significant warnings.

Second, Ms. Glaspie apparently omitted the warnings and simply slumped all over Mr. Hussein in their meeting on July 25, while the Iraqi leader threatened Kuwait anew.

Third, on July 28, just days before the Iraqi attack, Mr. Bush responded to Mr. Hussein with an echo of the weak Glaspie line. The response lacked even the hints of steel present in the original State Department instructions and, inexplicably, did not mention the 100,000 Iraqi troops on the border.

This all becomes public now as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, with the long-sought telegrams finally in hand, is poised to skewer Ms. Glaspie. The coming confrontation was triggered last fall when Iraq released a transcript of the Glaspie-Saddam conversation that contained no U.S. warnings.

Summoned before the committee to explain, Ms. Glaspie denied the transcript's accuracy and insisted that she had been tough. Next time, she will stand by that line and say that her telegram, which often contradicts her testimony, focused on Mr. Hussein's thinking and not on her tough

the day before by a midlevel State Department official to Iraq's ambassador in Washington. Not exactly a power channel.

A second State cable on July 24 called on Ms. Glaspie to reiterate the standard line about America having "no position" on Arab border disputes, and to warn that settlement of disputes by force was "contrary to U.N. Charter principles." An unexplained softening from the July 19 cable.

Then came the Glaspie cable of July 25, in which she apparently neglected to note U.S. readiness to support the sovereignty of Gulf states and the vital U.S. interests there. "In the spirit of friendship," she asked President Saddam why his troops were on the Kuwait border. Her toughest line.

On July 28, State wired what it identified as a message to President Saddam from President Bush. State's Arab experts wrote it; no one seems to recall who approved it or if Mr. Bush saw it. "We believe that differences are best resolved by peaceful means," it said. "We will also continue to support our other friends in the region."

Nothing about vital interests, protection of sovereignty, the 100,000 Iraqi troops hovering over Kuwait. Why? Why this further softening in the president's name just as things were heating up? Why never once in this period did a senior administration official deliver a tough warning?

On Feb. 11, almost a month into the war, Secretary of State James Baker was asked if war might have been prevented by strong warnings. "Maybe, you might be able — yes, absolutely," he answered. But that would take "20-20 hindsight," he put in.

Or maybe Mr. Bush and his top aides were blinded by their "friendly" mind-set toward President Saddam and by their intention to a situation they did not comprehend — until there was no choice but war — The New York Times.

By Andrew Hill  
Reuter

KHARTOUM — Side by side, the radical leaders of Sudan and Libya bulldozed the gates of Khartoum's notorious Kobar jail this month in a gesture symbolising their common hatred of colonialism and oppression.

Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi was the first to smash through the gates of the British-built prison as Sudan's military ruler, Omar Hassan Al Bashir, announced that all 1,300 inmates would be freed.

The July 1 event made dramatic pictures and gave Sudan's impoverished people something to smile about.

What worries foreign governments, however, is not what the two states are destroying, but what they might build.

Two years after he seized power in an army coup, Lieutenant General Bashir has set Sudan on a radical Islamic course which has cast it adrift from former allies and backers, including Arab and Western governments.

Mr. Qadhafi and Gen. Bashir say they are planning a merger, described by Gen. Bashir as the single most outstanding achievement in Khartoum's relations with the Arab World.

Some diplomats are puzzled by the friendship — Mr. Qadhafi has jailed fundamentalists in his own country.

But they see it as part of Mr. Qadhafi's plan to secure allies on his frontiers to pursue his dream of an Islamic Africa through a proxy in Chad.

"Chad is the Islamic dagger poised at the heart of Africa," said one diplomat.

Gen. Bashir's other success, he said at celebrations marking the second anniversary of his coming to power on June 30, was to declare Islamic Sharia law over the country of 26 million, about a third of whom are non-Muslims.

"Islam, with its own political, economic and social philosophy, represents the basis of ultimate justice as it is the religion of moderation, tolerance and equality. Islam protects the dignity of man as a social being," he said.

His words delight the Muslim Brotherhood, from which the government draws much of its support.

But they alarm Arab and Western governments who see Khartoum as a link in a chain of Islamic fundamentalist activism stretching from Mauritania on Africa's northwest shoulder to the Iranian capital, Tehran and beyond.

Ripples from the Gulf conflict continue to break on the banks of the Nile. Gen. Bashir's government condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but was equally critical of the Saudi and U.S.-led intervention that ended it.

Sudan's relations with Iraq have, if anything, warmed since the war. So too have ties with Iran, Libya and Yemen.

Arab and Western states have cut off aid as a result, Gen. Bashir said. He gave no figures, but Western estimates put the amount lost this year at \$300 million, a large sum for a country which is among the poorest in the world and where 7.5 million people are close to starvation.

Western envoys say they are bewildered by the new government.

## Baker awaits Israeli reply

(Continued from page 1)

of face-to-face bilateral talks that Israel said it had wanted for years. The United States is keen to issue invitation to the peace conference together with the Soviet Union at next week's summit, but Mr. Baker said this was not a deadline for an Israeli response.

"We are not setting deadlines. There are no deadlines. We would like it possible to receive an answer by that time. But if that's not possible, that's not an absolute deadline," he said.

Mr. Shamir's right-hand man meanwhile tempered speculation that the Jewish state would bow to U.S. pressure to accept the peace plan.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, Mr. Shamir's closest adviser and a staunch opponent of Israel exchanging occupied territory for peace, said the issues which scuttled Washington's earlier peace plan still remained, including the make-up of a Palestinian delegation at any peace conference.

"Heaven forbid, we should find ourselves sitting opposite representatives who are the PLO," Mr. Ben-

Aharon told army radio.

Mr. Shamir, a right-winger who has consistently demanded the right of veto over the composition of a Palestinian peace team, hinted after the visit by Mr. Baker Monday he might eventually say "yes" to

Washington.

But Mr. Ben-Aharon said the Jewish state had to tread carefully.

"I would say there are developments from which one may draw some encouragement but we are speaking of the survival of the state of Israel and its future so we must be cautious."

"We cannot give an answer as yet for the simple reason that the picture itself as the Americans presented it is not yet complete."

President George Bush wants Israel to respond before the summit in Moscow next week, White House National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said Monday.

Mr. Scowcroft said Israel had used

delaying tactics to avoid peace talks in the past but that such manoeuvres would be unacceptable this time.

Israeli political commentators believe it will be difficult for Mr. Shamir to say "no" and risk angering Washington, its main ally and banker. Israel is to ask the U.S. for \$10 billion in loan guarantees in September to settle Soviet Jewish newcomers.

Some commentators believe the shrewd 75-year-old leader will give a "yes" to the conference but ensure that it never entails any real concessions from Israel.

Mr. Ben-Aharon said the Americans were working on the composition of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which Israel could accept.

# Nothing to live for in Gaza

By Katia Sabet

GAZA STRIP — This time of the year the first sight that greets travellers at Israel's Ben Gurion airport is a mass of brilliant coloured flowers, which flank the freeway as it heads into town. The road passes through well-kept suburbs where apartment blocks are topped with solar panels to trap the sun's energy. Further on, the landscape gives way to orange groves, with fields of golden wheat stretching as far as the eye can see.

Suddenly the view changes. There are no more flowers and the well-surfaced highway gives way to a hilly road full of potholes. Behind a road-block manned by soldiers armed to the teeth lies another world. Here, the houses are crumbling. There are no solar panels, and in some homes, no running water or heat.

At almost every corner are barricades of oil drums, piled about 5-metre-high. The stench of uncollected garbage hovers in the dusty streets.

This is the Gaza Strip, a ribbon of land 40 kilometres long and 8 kilometres wide, sandwiched between Israel and Egypt on the Mediterranean coast, and entirely fenced off by barbed wire. This modern-day ghetto is home to 750,000 Palestinians, who have lived under the occupation of the Israeli army ever since the Arab-Israeli war in 1967.

Conditions have always been tough here, even before the Israelis came. This corner of the world has been plagued by war as long as anyone can remember. But in recent years, the Arab dwellers have had to get used to new kinds of hardship. To the poverty and illness that plague the eight overcrowded refugee camps are added new iron-fisted rules that tighten the Israeli grip on the territory but also push the population to the limit of endurance. The 8 p.m. curfew and a maze of rules covering every facet of daily life have brought unemployment to 50 per cent of the working-age population, while educational opportunities are practically non-existent.

Asked about the future of the Golan Heights and the "security zone" in Lebanon, Mr. Arens said: "The talks with Syria will tackle private issues connected with Syria and Israel and not other parties. The treaty will be built on these foundations."

He welcomed Lebanese participation in any Arab-Israeli talks but negotiations would not necessarily concern South Lebanon.

He said he saw no link between U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which demands an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and other resolutions calling for an Israeli pullout from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"And if any talks (on South Lebanon) take place they will be with the Lebanese government," said Mr. Arens. Any talks with Syria would only be on peace between Israel and Syria, he added.

Israel has refused to withdraw its troops from Lebanon until all foreign forces, including some 40,000 Syrians, withdraw. Lebanon wants Washington to put pressure on Israel to leave.

Mr. Arens said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's latest proposals for Arab-Israeli talks contained points which made Israel optimistic and Israel would study them before replying.

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To illustrate his point, Mr. Worm cites the example of a new slaughterhouse in the strip, built by the Palestinian Shawa family, a prominent family in the area.

"It took three years to get permission to build it," said Mr. Worm.

Throwing up a barrage of bureaucratic rules and regulations is one of the most successful tactics used by Israel in what

Palestinians, and some outsiders, claim is a deliberate scorched

earth policy in the occupied territories. For example, Israel refuses to import vegetables from the Gaza Strip, and tonnes of the zone's main export — citrus fruit — are spoilt each year en route to markets in Jordan and Europe, because Israeli checks and holds up delay their journey.

Since the Gulf war ended, Israeli occupation authorities in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have begun confiscating land from Palestinian farmers at a rate unprecedented since the 1967 war. Some analysts see it as a punishment for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support of Iraq. Others believe it may be a last land-grab before Israel is pressured into talks on giving up land for peace.

For the new generation of Palestinians, the devastating impact of the closure of all universities and most schools by the Israeli administration is just beginning to come to light. Students who try to escape by going abroad to complete their education face further problems.

"Even if they are granted an exit visa, they will not be allowed back into Gaza for three years," said a Palestinian who works for UNRWA and who spoke on condition of anonymity. "In the face of such regulations, most people are forced to abandon their travel plans for financial reasons."

Increased unemployment results in more dependence on the already stretched welfare system, almost entirely funded by foreign aid. UNRWA officials report a vast increase in requests for food and medical assistance. "People can no longer afford to pay for a doctor," said one official. With an annual UNRWA budget of just \$56 million, there are likely to be more hardships in the future.

The Gaza Strip is the place where the intifada started. A street corner here marks the spot where the rebellion began three and a half years ago. It was triggered by an incident that at any other time might have gone almost unnoticed — a car accident involving Israeli soldiers in which four Palestinians died. But tensions were high, the time was



Home to 750,000 Palestinians crammed into eight refugee camps, Gaza looks like a war zone, with streets blocked with oil drums by the Israeli army. (WNL)

him sufficiently are criminals and idios who should themselves be shot," said one. "That's no way to organise a punitive mission."

The youths show the same listless and despairing attitude in their discussions of the effects of the Gulf war and its significance for their future. Unlike Palestinians living abroad, many of whom continue to back Mr. Saddam Hussein, young Arabs in the occupied territories say they believe it was a terrible mistake.

"We've reached the stage where moderation is considered treachery," said another who is 24 and whose brother is in prison; his father was killed in 1969. "We only have the extreme right and the extreme left. If you try to remain in the centre, you risk being condemned as a collaborator or a traitor." A week earlier, Ghassan, a 20-year-old friend, was murdered. He was killed by another Arab, whom Ghassan had been sent to execute as a collaborator. The other Palestinian was also armed, and he pulled his gun first.

Ghassan's friends discuss his death dispassionately. "The people who sent Ghassan on his mission, without studying the situation properly and training

mood is too bitter for them to listen to pleas for moderation. "We no longer have any confidence," said a 22-year-old who spent two months in the Israeli Naqab prison camp, one of the toughest. "Our only hope is to push the entire situation to extremes."

"We've reached the stage where moderation is considered treachery," said another who is 24 and whose brother is in prison; his father was killed in 1969. "We only have the extreme right and the extreme left. If you try to remain in the centre, you risk being condemned as a collaborator or a traitor." A week earlier, Ghassan, a 20-year-old friend, was murdered. He was killed by another Arab, whom Ghassan had been sent to execute as a collaborator. The other Palestinian was also armed, and he pulled his gun first.

"I've always been against the occupation of Kuwait," said a 25-year-old physiotherapy student. "How could I approve of the invasion of a country when my own has been occupied? Saddam has destroyed everything, his people, and all that we had achieved with world public opinion through the intifada. Ours is a people that is dying." — World News Links.

## Lebanese fire at Israeli planes

(Continued from page 1)

on July 1. After a four-day clash, Palestinian fighters agreed to surrender their weapons and cooperate with the army, which pledged to protect the 500,000 Palestinian civilians in refugee camps across the country.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens Tuesday demanded the Lebanese army confiscate guerrilla guns to bring peace to South Lebanon.

Visiting Israel's self-declared "security zone," in South Lebanon, Mr. Arens ruled out Israeli talks with Syria to bring peace to the south, saying this could only be agreed between Israel and Beirut.

Arens told reporters in the town of Marjayoun: "The Lebanese army faces an important mission and that is to confiscate weapons from the (Palestinian) groups and Hezbollah."

"When the Lebanese army receives these weapons, that might lead to calm, I think there will not be calm until the Lebanese army completes its mission."

Mr. Arens was accompanied by Israeli army chief Ehud Barak. Hezbollah has stepped up its raids on Israeli forces in South Lebanon. Israel hit back with air raids and reinforced its strength in the south.

Asked whether an agreement with Syria on South Lebanon was possible if Israel agreed on the

future of the Golan Heights, Mr. Arens said the two issues were separate.

"And if any talks (on South Lebanon) take place they will be with the Lebanese government," said Mr. Arens. Any talks with Syria would only be on peace between Israel and Syria, he added.

Israel has refused to withdraw its troops from Lebanon until all foreign forces, including some 40,000 Syrians, withdraw. Lebanon wants Washington to put pressure on Israel to leave.

Mr. Arens said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's latest proposals for Arab-Israeli talks contained points which made Israel optimistic and Israel would study them before replying.

"We have a lot of problems here," said Klaus Worm, director

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## Washington reconsidering sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

He suggested Baghdad be allowed to sell some oil to import food, medicine, agricultural items and equipment needed to restore war-damaged water, sewage, electrical, oil industry and communications facilities.

His report said Iraq had the capacity to export about one million barrels of oil a day, enough to raise about \$5.5 billion over a year.

"I have no reason to doubt that there is an impending serious shortage of food and medicine in Iraq which we have all got to address," Mr. Hannay told reporters.

Noting that sanctions on foodstuffs were lifted in March and that medicines were never under sanctions, he added, "there is now a problem about financing that and we'll have to look at it."

We are not in all respects in agreement with some aspects of the report but on the foodstuffs and the medicine and questions of public hygiene, I think there is a general consensus."

The U.N. Security Council's Sanctions Committee was briefed Monday about the plight of Iraqi civilians but did not decide on the proposal to let Iraq sell oil to pay for food and other supplies.



A grade school run by Mary Khass in the Bureij refugee camp is among the few educational facilities still open in Gaza. (WNL)



Mr. Klaus Worm, director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency in Gaza, estimates the unemployment rate at close to 50 per cent. (WNL)

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## Letko of U.S., Italy's D'Urso follow different paths to gold

SHEDFIELD, England (Agencies) — Anne Marie Letko took seven seconds off her best time in only her third race of the year to the gold medal Monday in 10,000 metres at the World Student Games.

The 22-year-old Rutgers University student broke from the field in the second of the 25 laps at the Don Valley Stadium and was never caught as she turned in a time of 32:36.87.

By contrast, Italy's Giuseppe D'Urso waited until the last few seconds to snatch his victory.

From fifth place with 40 metres to go, D'Urso stormed through a pack of runners for a dramatic finish and the gold medal in the 800 metres.

Off the track, the U.S. men's and women's basketball teams both made their finals. The men's team breezed past Israel 89-59 to earn a clash with Canada while the women swooped past China 79-97 and now meet Spain for the gold.

American teams also advanced to the finals in water polo and men's volleyball.

The water polo team downed Italy 6-4 and plays China for the gold medal while the volleyball squad edged the Soviets 3-2 on sets to advance to a match with Poland in Tuesday's final.

The American track team collected two golds as well as three bronzes on the track as more impressive performances followed Sunday's 100-metre sprint double by Michael Bates and Chryste Gaines.

Maicel Malone won the women's 400 metres in 50.65

seconds, while bronzes went to javelin thrower Paula Berry, Jason Jones in the 800 metres and Marlin Cannon in the men's 400 metres.

Cutting her previous best time by seven seconds wasn't enough for Letko, who is slated to compete at the World Championships in Tokyo next month.

"With Tokyo coming up, I thought I could have run a little faster," she said. "It's hard to do running alone, but I wanted to be closer to 32 minutes."

Malone finished 1.41 seconds ahead of second place German Gretta Tromp, while the gap between Tromp and the last runner was only 1.60.

"I knew the other girls were good, so I didn't expect to win so easily," said Malone, who will run on the U.S. 1,600-metre relay team in Tokyo.

Berry heaved the javelin 58.28 metres (191 feet, 2 inches) in her last throw to finish third after being lodged in eighth place after five of the six.

The gold went to Soviet thrower Tatiana Shikolnko with 63.56 metres (208 feet, 6 inches) and Cuban Isela Lopez won the silver with 62.32 metres (204 feet, 5 inches).

A Soviet world record holder took the field Monday although not in her favoured event.

Inessa Kravets said she was too tired to take part in Saturday's triple jump. But she leaped 6.33 metres (20 feet, 9 1/4 inches) with her first long jump to qualify for the final with the best mark.

In women's basketball,

Carolyn Jones scored 23 points and Judy Moseley added 20 as the United States subdued China 79-76 to gain a place against Spain.

"This game was back and forth and could have gone either way, but our players responded very well at the end," coach Tara Van Derveer said.

"It wasn't the prettiest game, but we got it done underneath," said Moseley, who grabbed 12 rebounds.

Kyle Kopp and Kirk Everett each scored twice to put the American water polo team into the final.

In the other semifinal, China beat Australia 10-6.

In a see-saw volleyball semifinal against the Soviets, the American team won 15-11, 11-15, 15-9, 7-15, 15-9, while Poland whipped Algeria 15-2, 15-7.

Meanwhile former javelin world record holder Steve Backley expects to throw over 90 metres for the first time this year when he defends his World Student Games title Thursday.

But he is not aiming to reclaim the record.

Brition Backley said Tuesday trying to set new marks with the latest aerodynamically-assisted javelins was a lottery and he placed more value on winning gold than breaking the 96.96 metres record set by Finland's Seppo Raita last month.

"The record is not my main objective. Winning this title and the World Championship are more important," said the European and Commonwealth champion who was sidelined for two

weeks last month with a thigh injury.

"I am in good shape now to throw a long way. I am confident of throwing 90 metres and that should be enough to win here.

"The atmosphere in the team village is electric and that will carry over into the stadium, so getting psych'd up will be no problem."

Backley, who held the record last year with a throw of 90.98 metres using a Nemeth javelin, said the latest models with roughened tails were unpredictable.

"The rough-tails are more of a lottery. Some days it goes, some days it doesn't and I can't work out why," he said.

"There are times when I have everything right on release and I look up to see my javelin falling from the sky. It's very disillusioning."

"So that puts more emphasis on winning championships where everyone can pick from the pool of javelins and the guy who wins is the best thrower."

Earlier this month he said the event was being devalued by technological advances and called for a halt to changing specifications of the javelins. Setting records had lost its credibility, he said.

Backley, whose throw of 88.46 metres last Friday in Edinburgh ranks him third in the world this year behind Raita and Czechoslovak Jan Zelezny, is unlikely to come under pressure from his opponents here but insisted it would not be a one-man show.

Marco Lietti, winner of Monday's stage of the Tour de France, was seriously hurt in an accident en route to the start of Tuesday's stage in the Alps.

Lietti, 27, struck a child who ran into the path of his bike, then crashed into a small truck that was part of the tour entourage, witnesses said.

According to preliminary reports, Lietti suffered a broken collarbone. He was taken to a hospital for treatment. Lietti, 75th in the overall standings, won by two seconds over American Greg Lemond on Monday, the 16th of 22 stages.

Meanwhile reports of Lemond's demise may have been grossly exaggerated.

Down from a fall and almost out after some exhausting mountain stages, Lemond rebounded with a surprise breakaway in the final 15 kilometres of the 16th leg. It showed he is not to be counted out — yet.

The only opening-day upset was Poland's 2-1 victory over sixth seed France. Nathalie Tuzat, ranked 14th worldwide, lost in singles and in doubles with Mary Pierce.

Other winning nations Monday were Finland, Indonesia, China, Canada and the Soviet Union.

## Italian Liotti hurt in Tour de France accident

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Financial Markets  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollars in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 22/7/1991	Tokyo Close Date 23/7/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6790	1.6677
Deutsche Mark	1.7620	1.7712
Swiss Franc	1.5255	1.5352
French Franc	5.9815	6.0063 **
Japanese Yen	137.72	137.52
European Currency Unit	1.1655	1.1613 **

\*\* USD/PY/STC  
\*\* European Opening at 2:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.06	6.31	6.62
Sterling Pound	11.06	10.87	10.81	10.66
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.00	9.25	9.75
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.75	7.75	7.67
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.31	9.45
Japanese Yen	7.31	7.43	7.25	7.15
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.51	9.57	10.00

Interest rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689
Sterling Pound	1.1461	1.1518
Deutsche Mark	.3680	.3699
Swiss Franc	.4479	.4501
French Franc	.1144	.1158
Japanese Yen	.4994	.5019
Dutch Guilder	.3443	.3460
Swedish Krona	.1071	.1076
Italian Lira	.0521	.0524
Belgian Franc	.01901	.01911

\*\* 21 Kurs  
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 23/7/1991

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U.S. Dollar	.687	.689
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French Franc	.1144	.1158
Japanese Yen	.4994	.5019
Dutch Guilder	.3443	.3460
Swedish Krona	.1071	.1076
Italian Lira	.0521	.0524
Belgian Franc	.01901	.01911

\*\* Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0790
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1834
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1856	.1865
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2025
Oman-Riyal	1.7500	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1856	.1865
Greek Drachma	.3200	.3400
Cypriot Pound	1.4150	1.4400

\*\* Per 100  
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	21/7/1991 Close	22/7/1991 Close
All-Share	111.03	111.40
Banking Sector	106.28	106.59
Insurance Sector	119.58	119.34
Industry Sector	115.51	115.88
Services Sector	127.42	128.72

December 31, 1990 = 100

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Shares ended easier to quiet, choppy trade with most investors sidelined by lack of factors and the brokerage scandal. The Nikkei closed down 161.07 points at 22,705.29 with just 160 million shares traded.

SYDNEY — Australian shares shrugged off three weeks of inactivity, soaring to 11-month high after local and overseas investors rushed to buy leading stocks. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 19.7 points at 1570.3.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed easier after a generally featureless day dominated by profit-taking of property counters. The Hang Seng Index closed down 21.0 points at 3,988.35.

Cinema	Tel: 677420	CONCORD
LET'S GET HARRY	Show: 3:30, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30	THINK BIG
Show: 5:15 only		

Cinema	Tel: 675571	NIJOUN
To Be Opened Soon Nabil Mashini Theatre		

Cinema	Tel: 625155	RAINBOW
TOM SELLECK — IN RUNAWAY	Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.	

## Kuwait lends Syria \$60 m

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Kuwait agreed Monday to lend Syria \$60 million — its third loan to Damascus since the Gulf war — to build a spinning mill in northern Syria.

Officials said Syria's Planning Minister Sabah Baqaji and Badr Al Humaidhi from the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development signed the agreement.

The fund first contributed \$105 million for Damascus sewage scheme and later a \$35 million loan to help Syrians who fled Kuwait after Iraq's invasion last August.

Mr. Humaidhi also met Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi and discussed the fund's role in developing Arab investment projects.

Syria sent at least 15,000 troops to the U.S.-led allied force in the Gulf which drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait at the end of February.

After signing the loan agreement Monday, Mr. Humaidhi said that Kuwait will try to construct 600,000 telephone lines in Syria before the end of the year and will "seek all means to find work opportunities for Syrian workers in Kuwait."

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Monday that it granted India a \$230 million emergency loan to help the country weather the financial fallout from the Gulf crisis.

The credit is a vote of confidence by the IMF in India's ability to carry out painful economic reforms and should help the cash-strapped country avoid defaulting on its more than \$70 billion in foreign debt.

The IMF said that India has had to pay more for imported oil and has lost revenues from expatriate workers who fled the Gulf since the invasion of Kuwait last August.

New Delhi faces a credit crunch because a collapse in its trade with the Soviet Union and the financial fallout from the Gulf crisis has brought its long-term economic problems of a burgeoning budget deficit and mounting foreign debt to a head.

But the recently-elected minority government of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has tackled those problems head on.

Mr. Rao has devalued India's currency twice, raised interest rates and outlined a programme challenging the country's socialist, protectionist orthodoxy since taking office last month.

The deal will be the biggest in the fast-growing industry since the Swiss parent of Hoffmann-La Roche agreed to buy 60 per cent of Genentech Inc. last year for \$2.1 billion.

Under the merger pact, Chiron will offer to exchange three-tenths of a share for each outstanding Cetus share. The final price may be subject to certain adjustments.

As part of the transaction, Chiron also will assume about

Suharto renews demand to businessmen to share wealth with the poor

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian President Suharto has told the nation's leading businessmen that if they do not transfer some of their shares to the country's cooperatives, the law will force them.

"We don't want to commit robbery, though if we wanted to it would be easy," the official Antara News Agency Monday quoted the president as saying.

The government would use the law if business did not voluntarily transfer the shares, Mr. Suharto said.

He first made the demand to the speech to the nation in January 1990.

Mr. Suharto told companies to distribute up to 25 per cent of their shares to cooperatives. Many have handed over barely one per cent.

Many economists have attacked the scheme as impractical and see it as a political sop to counter criticism that the fruits of a fast-growing economy have yet to work their way down to most of the population.

In an interview, Mr. Suharto's half-brother Probosutedjo laid the blame on the country's ethnic Chinese, an economically powerful minority, for preventing the spread of wealth to the indigenous masses whose average annual income is little more than \$500.

Mr. Probosutedjo, a prominent businessman, urged ethnic Chinese, who control most of



Suharto

Indonesia's major private companies, to mix with the rest of society and to be loyal to the interests of the nation, not just to money.

Some economists have said the appeal effectively amounts to charity for the country's thousands of largely inefficient cooperatives.

Under the scheme, companies would lend the money to cooperatives to buy their shares and the dividends would be used for repayment.

Mr. Suharto said Indonesia's corporate wealth was a national asset that should be used to replace scarce government funds to develop the nation.

Total imports reached 1.076 billion riyals (\$2,802 billion) in 1990 compared with 910 million (\$2,370 billion) a year earlier.

Oman Saturday issued its first 10 million riyals (\$26 million) of government development bonds.

The sultanate plans to issue total of 429 million riyals (\$1.12 billion) of the five-year bonds in 1991-95 to help cover a projected budget deficit. It hopes to raise 137 million riyals (\$357 million) in 1991.

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## Yugoslav leaders fear civil war as peace efforts collapse

OHRID, Yugoslavia (R) — Yugoslav leaders said Tuesday they feared all-out war after the collapse of peace talks and the worst fighting between rival Serbs and Croats since World War II.

The state presidency, the heads of the six republics and government leaders issued a statement after peace talks in this lakeside resort that made clear they were still divided over how to end violence sweeping breakaway Croatia.

About 20 people were killed in eastern Croatia Monday in fighting between the Roman Catholic Croats and the Orthodox Serbian minority who oppose the republic's secessionist moves.

Croatian officials said sporadic shooting broke out overnight in eastern Croatia and six National Guardsmen were wounded in an attack in the village of Laslovo. Two bomb explosions were reported in the town of Osijek.

Tanjug News Agency said Croatian police attacked Yugoslav army units early Tuesday near a bridge between the republics of

Serbia and Croatia. The army fired back with artillery but Tanjug mentioned no new casualties.

"Yugoslavia is experiencing its most dramatic moments. Conflict among its nationalities and confrontations among its republics threaten all its people with civil war and catastrophic consequences," the leaders said in a statement, released after Monday's peace talks.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman stormed out of the Ohrid summit and convened an emergency session of his Supreme Council of military and civilian leaders after failing to persuade the presidency to return the federal army to barracks in Croatia.

He accused federal army officers deployed in Croatia of helping Serbian guerrillas in fighting that has killed scores of people since Croatia declared independence together with the neighbouring republic of Slovenia on June 25.

More than 30 people have been killed in the last four days.

"It is a question of solving this critical situation, which is now in

fact one of war," Mr. Tudjman, seething with anger, told Croatian television.

"I address Croatia's people to call on them to be composed and resolute so they do not succumb to further provocations ... But they should also be ready to face, within days perhaps, even all-out war in defence of Croatia."

The violence in Croatia and fighting between Slovenia and the federal army which killed 64 people in one week has plunged Yugoslavia into a crisis that threatens the 72-year-old Balkan state with collapse.

Croatia's Supreme Council said further peace talks were possible only if the Serbian-dominated federal army was ready to withdraw to barracks in Croatia, where it is acting as a buffer between Serbs and Croats in the worst flashpoints.

But the Ohrid statement said the country's other leaders flatly rejected an immediate army withdrawal and made clear Mr. Tudjman and Yugoslav President Stipe Mesic, a Croat, had disassociated themselves from the

declaration.

Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov said Monday that all participants at the talks accepted a declaration calling for European Community (EC) observers to work in Croatia and ordering Croatia's illegal paramilitary forces to disband.

Borisav Jovic, Serbia's member of the collective state presidency, told reporters: "If the army pulls out, it could mean large-scale civil war and wading knee-deep through blood."

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said that even at the eleventh hour, Croatia had insisted on conditions that prevented agreement on how to resolve the crisis.

"Now everyone will have to face the consequences and take responsibility for the fate of their own people," Mr. Milosevic said as he left Ohrid.

Serbs and Croats, who comprise more than half of Yugoslavia's 23.5 million people, are old enemies but violence between them has increased since Croatia declared independence.



## Over 1,000 die in battle for Sri Lankan army camp

COLOMBO (R) — More than 1,000 Sri Lankans have died in two weeks of the fiercest battles between Tamil rebels and government troops since separatists resumed fighting a year ago, a military spokesman said Tuesday.

A relief column of 2,000 soldiers found the bodies of 112 more Tamil rebels Monday when they advanced toward a strategic army camp that has been under attack for two weeks, the spokesman said.

By Monday, the death count had risen to 930 rebels and 87 soldiers, the military said.

No other details were available on Monday's clashes around the Elephant Pass army camp, the spokesman said.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas have been attacking the camp since July 10 with mortar bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

The clashes were the fiercest since the rebels, fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east, broke off 14 months of peace talks in June 1990.

Elephant Pass connects the northern Jaffna peninsula, a Tiger stronghold, with the rest of the island.

The attacks on Elephant Pass have eased since two crack army brigades landed on the beach at Cumbukkam, 12 kilometres from the bone marrow and intestines of any cat from lion to housecat. The death rate for unvaccinated young felines is higher than 90 per cent.

## COLUMN 8

### Jaguars die in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — A pair of prized jaguars shipped to Cairo's Giza Zoo died of distemper within days of their arrival. Giza's director has said. Zookeeper Mohammad Hussein Amer said the cats had been shipped from the San Diego Zoo, but spokeswoman for the California Zoo, Georgeanne Irvine, said it had not sent any jaguars to Cairo. Mr. Amer said the jaguars were part of an animal-exchange programme between the two zoos, organised through a German middleman whom Mr. Amer did not identify. The Giza Zoo obtains most of its new animals through such exchanges. Mrs. Irvine said the San Diego Zoo has no exchange programme with the Giza Zoo. The male and female were about eight years old. Mr. Amer said he has no record that the century-old zoo ever had jaguars. "The jaguars were supposed to have been vaccinated against distemper when they were born, and then once annually. They were supposed to vaccinate them before they shipped them to Cairo. But apparently they didn't," Mr. Amer said. "The animals' health and resistance were weakened on the way to Cairo. They died of distemper shortly after they arrived." Jaguars, yellowish with black spots, range from the southwestern United States to Argentina. The species is the largest new world predatory cat. Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that can attack the bone marrow and intestines of any cat from lion to housecat.

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Car to cost about same as flat in Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — Japanese cars with one litre engines will cost 50,000 dollars (\$32,600) in Singapore from August, about the same price for a government-built flat with two bedrooms, car dealers said. The price includes a premium which officials confirmed Tuesday would be 9,660 Singapore dollars (\$5,520) for cars with one litre or smaller engines. The government, which sets a monthly quota of between 3,000 and 4,000 cars to limit the number rolling onto Singapore's roads, holds a monthly auction for certificates of entitlement (COEs) to award the right to buy cars. The lowest successful bid becomes the COE premium. A Japanese car with 1.6 litre engine will carry a price tag of about 65,000 dollars (\$37,100), the cost of a three-bedroom flat provided by the Housing Development Board.

Mr. Joxe told reporters that the end of the cold war has made it unnecessary for France to maintain its independent nuclear deterrent through separate submarine and land-based systems.

The government's decision to scrap the costly S-45 nuclear missile, which would have been shuttled around on huge trucks in times of emergency, was reported in the news media this weekend.

Mr. Joxe also told a Monday news conference that in 1992 France will dissolve military units comprising 10,000 soldiers and 1,600 civilians that were based in Germany.

A similar force reduction is to begin Aug. 31. The two moves will cut the total number of French soldiers in Germany from 50,000 to 30,000.

The two-stage missiles would have been located on the Albion Plateau in southern France. The area is already home to the 20-year-old S-3 missiles, which are

## Indian opposition demands enquiry into Sikh deaths

NEW DELHI (R) — India's opposition Bharati Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths of 10 Sikhs said by police to have been militants killed in a shoot-out.

Senior BJP official Madan Lal Khurana said his investigation suggested the Sikhs were taken off a bus during a tour of Sikh holy places in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh on July 12, Indian news agencies reported.

They quoted Mr. Khurana as saying even if the Sikhs were militants, there was no justification for them "being done to death," apparently backing charges by Sikhs that the 10 were summarily executed. Police in Uttar Pradesh origi-

nally reported the 10 were killed in an encounter with security forces well away from Punjab, where militants are fighting for an independent homeland they call Khalistan, or land of the pure.

Mr. Khurana was quoted as saying witnesses had told him 13 men were taken off the bus as it returned to Pilibhit near the Nepal border.

Two old men were freed, 10 killed and one, the organiser of the tour, was still missing, he said.

The ever-rising death toll in the Sikh insurgency is concentrated in the rich, northern agricultural state of Punjab, though the violence occasionally spills into New Delhi.

## France scraps mobile nuclear missiles; cuts troops in Germany

PARIS (AP) — Defence Minister Pierre Joxe has confirmed that France will not build mobile nuclear missiles to replace the outdated missiles it has in fixed silos.

The government's decision to scrap the costly S-45 nuclear missile, which would have been shuttled around on huge trucks in times of emergency, was reported in the news media this weekend.

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The two-stage missiles would have been located on the Albion Plateau in southern France. The area is already home to the 20-year-old S-3 missiles, which are

located in fixed silos.

Thirty lighter, two-stage S-45s had been intended to replace the 18 long-range, three-stage S-3 missiles on the plateau by the year 2000.

The S-45 missiles would have been stored in silos and shifted to huge trucks in time of international crisis. The vehicles would shuttle the missiles around the plateau.

In recent months, President Francois Mitterrand had expressed scepticism about the need for the 30 billion franc (\$5 billion) project.

Military planners have drawn up alternate plans to replace the S-3 by adapting the ballistic missiles used on France's nuclear submarines for land use.

## U.S. tightens sanctions against Burma

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration said Monday it was imposing trade sanctions against Burma — the world's largest opium producer — because of a lack of progress in curbing narcotics flows and in easing political repression.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said that as part of a stepped up programme of economic denial against Burma, the administration has decided not to renew a bilateral textile agreement that lapsed at the end of 1990.

That measure means that Burma will have not textile quota and therefore access to U.S. markets will be more difficult. Burma

earned \$9 million from U.S. textile exports last year, about 40 per cent of total exports.

Mr. Boucher said Burma's textile exports, in the absence of a quota, have decreased by 21 per cent in value this year compared with the same period last year.

The administration acted under an amendment that calls for new sanctions if President George Bush certifies that Burma has not made progress on human rights or in suppressing narcotics flows.

In 1988, Burma cracked down on a pro-democracy movement and ended a programme to eradicate its opium crop. As a result, opium production has doubled to an estimated 2,250 tons, making

Burma the world's largest producer, U.S. officials said.

Politically, the Burmese military remains firmly in charge. National elections held in the spring of 1990 were won by opposition parties but the government decided to ignore the results.

The number of political prisoners is believed by U.S. officials to be in the thousands. There also have been credible reports that political prisoners have been tortured, said the officials, asking not to be identified.

A U.S. development assistance programme totaling \$7 million was terminated three years ago, along with a \$5 million narcotics cooperation programme.

## Cameron, Noble tie the knot

CHEEKWOWA, N.Y. (AP) — Kirk Cameron and Chelsea Noble, co-stars on the *Growing Pains* television comedy, have tied the knot.

The couple, who have been dating since last summer, exchanged vows at a church in this Buffalo suburb, but 45 plainclothes security guards kept them at bay. One

photographer dressed as a priest, hoping to elude the guards, another tried to hide in the church's confessional. Cameron, 20, and Noble, 26, a Cheektowaga native, announced their engagement on a talk show in January.

Dior's sumptuous line is a dejá vu

PARIS — Gianfranco Ferré was true to the Dior spin when he presented a sumptuous line of haute couture for the famed fashion house, but critics said the Italian designer was rehashing last year's hand-me-downs. Ferré, who replaced British designer Marc Bohan at Dior in 1989, has a flair for combining the fuscous elegance of expensive furs and jewelled embroidery with exotic motifs and the deep golden hues of the Orient. Evening gowns came in gold sequins, glass mirrors or voluminous folds of sea-green taffeta. The world's most beautiful models posed under gleaming spotlights in shimmering quilted coats lined with chinchilla, or lame slacks with cuddly velvet and satin wraps. A series of camel hair ensembles and red silk brocade party dresses were new themes for Ferré. The atmosphere was one of wealth, glamour and luxury, but several critics stifled yawns and said Ferré's autumn winter line too closely resembled his previous collections.

"You know, I've seen so many of his collections, and it's just the same thing," said one fashion writer.

Mr. Tshisekedi was arrested in 1981 after he and 13 other legislators wrote a letter criticising the president.

They followed nine years of detention, house arrest, banishment and torture.

"Everything that Mr. Tshisekedi created and imposed on the people of Zaire is going to go out with him," Mr. Tshisekedi told the Associated Press in a recent interview.

Among the aims of his party, he said, are restoring the country's former name, the Congo, and the flag adopted when it won its independence from Belgium in 1960.

The Popular Movement for the Revolution has been the only legal party since Mr. Mobutu took power in late 1965. Last April, Mr. Mobutu agreed to allow opposition parties to operate freely in the former Belgian Congo.

But security forces have broken up opposition meetings and are accused of killing students believed to oppose Mr. Mobutu. Critics have charged Mr. Mobutu with delaying democratic reforms, moving only far enough to stave off further aid cuts by the United States and other governments who strongly supported him.

Opposition parties have said they would boycott the conference unless it can push through reforms on all fronts, including the constitution. Mr. Mobutu has refused to give the conference control over constitutional matters.

Mr. Tshisekedi is the leader of one of the most powerful opposition parties, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress.

In 1966, he and Mr. Mobutu co-founded the ruling Popular Movement for the Revolution, and he served as interior minis-

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